

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-13 /125 W
-----023394 220051Z /73/

R 201811Z JUL 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2598
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 2105

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1 LINE 5)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP PORG AG CU
SUBJ: REPORTED ALGERIAN-CUBAN SPLIT AND MOROCCAN VIETS

REF: HAVANA 2068

1. WITH FURTHER REFERENCE TO REFTEL AND REPORTING FROM
OTHER POSTS ON THIS SUBJECT, NEW ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION WITH CUBAN ATTITUDE ON SAHARA PROBLEM DURING
COURTESY CALL BY USINT CHIEF ON JULY 18. HE ALSO SEEMED
CONFIDENT THAT CUBANS ARE COMMITTED TO A POLITICAL SOLUTION
IN ERITREA. THERE WAS CENRTAINLY SUGGESTION IN THIS
CONVERSATION OF ANY SIGNIFICANT "SPLIT" BETWEEN ALGERIA
AND CUBA.

2. DURING TOUR D'HORIZON ON JULY 19, MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR
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TO CUBA, WHO FOLLOWS THESE MATTERS CLOSELY AND PERCEPTIVELY,
SAID THAT HE HAS SEEN NO SIGN OF A RECENT FALLING OUT BETWEEN
CUBA AND ALGERIA. HE VIEWS THE NEW ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR HER AS AN
ABLE PROFESSIONAL WHO WILL PRESUMABLY ADVANCE RELATIONS BETWEEN
THOSE COUNTRIES.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED OPINION

THAT CUBANS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN UNUSUALLY SOLICITIOUS OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH HIS COUNTRY. HE CITED A) RELATIVELY LOW KEY NEUTRAL ROLE PLAYED BY CUBA ON SAHARA ISSUE AT NAM COORDINATING BUREAU COMMITTEE, B) CUBAN CARE TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF OFFICIAL (AS DISTINCT FROM PARTY) RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVE NOW RESIDENT IN HAVANA, AND C) CUBAN AVOIDANCE OF PUBLIC OR PRESS CRITICISM OF CURRENT MOROCCAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN SHABA.

4. COMMENT: WE THEREFORE CONTINUE TO DOUBT REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANT ALGERIAN-CUBAN SPLIT, AND SEE EVIDENCE THAT CUBA HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CULTIVATING ITS RELATIONS WITH BOTH ALGERIA AND MOROCCO (AMONG OTHER ARABS) IN PREPARATION FOR KHARTOUM SUMMIT AND BELGRADE NAM MEETING.
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